

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-23 are currently pending.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 17, 18, 22 and 23 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. All claims which are not herein amended depend directly or indirectly from independent Claims 1, 14, and 22.

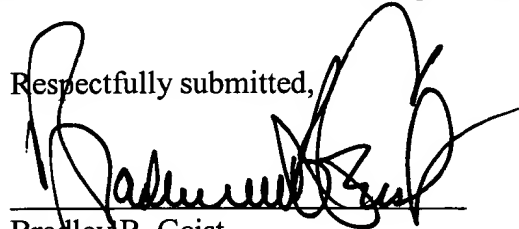
Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,654,384 (Reza). The arguments in support of the rejection are set forth on pages 2-4 of the Official Action, and not herein repeated. The Examiner has also rejected dependent Claims 3-5, 7-9, 10, 11-13, 14, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Reza reference and various secondary references. See items 3-8 on pages 4-15 of the Official Action.

Further, the Examiner has rejected Claims 17, 19-20, 22 and 23, also over Reza in view of a variety of secondary references. See items 9-12 on pages 15-23 of the Official Action. Applicants note with appreciation the conditional allowance of Claims 6, 16, and 21.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of the outstanding grounds for rejection to the extent that they are not rendered moot by virtue of the amendments made herein to each of independent Claim 1, 14, 22 and 23, and which, if found to be allowable by the Examiner, should further result in the allowance of all claims depending, directly or indirectly, therefrom.

As is apparent from the amendments to claim 1, Applicants have now added hereto the limitations of Claims 5 and 6; and Claim 14 now includes the limitations of Claim 16. In the circumstances, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley B. Geist', is written over a horizontal line.

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